December 13, 1937

Weather: Cloudy

I always wanted to write diary about my daily life but it is the most difficult thing to do in China. Cleaning the weapons that I received, drying the shoes, protecting my own life is very hard.

According to the chief general we finally invaded Nanking. He said we should be proud of ourselves and he said that the great emperor of Japan is proud of us. I am not sure if I did something that is beneficial to my country… When I see all those dead bodies on the street, I sometimes recognize a face that look very familiar. I see Japanese weapons on the street and I see many dead bodies with Japanese flag on their chest. More than that, when I walk between dead Chinese bodies, I feel something that I never felt before.

It’s been almost two month… By the time I arrived at China, the tension between Japan and China was very strong. It was just after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, where Japan succeeded capturing Beijing and Tianjin. Although Chiang Kai-shek quickly formed an army, it was not comparable to Japanese power. I think Japan was fully prepared for this war. Japan was ready to take over China and many Japanese people sacrificed their lives to dedicate their lives to Japan.

My first task in China was fighting in the Battle of Shanghai. There were about 200,000 people including myself in the army. This army was called Imperial Japanese Army. There were several naval vessels and aircrafts to invade Shanghai. I think I fought for several years… but when I check the calendar after the war, we been fighting for three month. I thought after the Battle of Shanghai, I will be sent home. However, Battle of Shanghai wasn’t enough for Japan. Some say there was Nanking Massacre; many Japanese people said there weren’t any. Since I am part of the Japanese Imperial Army, I believe there was no Massacre. Those people died during the war. We did not kill them on purpose. Well, that’s what I want to believe.

I am so worried about my future… fellow friends are dying. Many friends are getting injured. I don’t feel like I am living in this world. I think I don’t live without any thinking. I just live as it flows. I just shoot when I see people in front of me. What will happen to me? Will I be home alive? How many people did I kill? Will there be a time when I play tennis with my fellow classmates? Am I going to die? Who am I living for?